



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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RICHARD SHUMSKY
Chief Probation Officer

November 7, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

APPROVE RENEWAL OF READING IS FUNDAMENTAL FEDERAL GRANT TO PROVIDE BOOKS TO YOUTH HOUSED IN PROBATION RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

(3-VOTE, ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD :

1. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer, as agent for the County, to accept and execute a Reading is Fundamental (RIF) grant award renewal in the amount of \$29,700 from the United States Department of Education (DOE), with a cash match of \$9,900 from the Probation Department for a total amount of \$39,600 to allow the Probation Department to purchase books at a discounted rate and distribute the books to minors in residential treatment facilities.
2. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to pay the Probation Department's cash match of \$9,900 required for this grant from Probation's Visto-Operation Read Fund.

PURPOSE / JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The recommended Board actions will allow Probation to renew the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) grant from DOE. The purpose of the grant renewal is to continue the purchasing of books at discounted rates and distributing them to minors housed at 19

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residential treatment facilities and at three juvenile hall long-term care units. Under this program, minors select a book without adult interference and are allowed to keep the book to read outside of class. The books are free to the minors without any costs to the family. The goal of this program is to help promote minors' reading skills and enhance their educational readiness.

As in the previous year, a book selection committee of at least three people will determine which books to purchase for distribution to the minors. Upon Board approval, Probation will schedule three to five book distributions to take place before September 30, 2003, the end of the federal fiscal year.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommendation Board actions are consistent of the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 5: Children And Families' Well-Being as the purchase and distribution of books to minors improve the well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County by promoting minors' reading skills and enhancing their educational readiness.

Furthermore, the recommendation Board actions are consistent with the Probation Department's Strategic Plan task 3.3.5 as the Department is integrating a literacy program into the regularly scheduled camp and hall activities for all juveniles.

FISCAL IMPACT/ FINANCING.

The total amount of the RIF grant award renewal is \$29,700 from DOE. Probation is required to provide a cash match of \$9,900. Adequate funds for the cash match are provided in Probation's Visto-Operation Read Fund. No additional net County cost is required.

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There is no transfer of funds to the County of Los Angeles from DOE. Once the RIF grant renewal is approved, Probation will order books at the negotiated discounts from lists of RIF vendors offering discounts. Probation will remit the invoices with payment for 25 percent of each invoice to DOE. DOE is responsible for the remaining 75 percent of each invoice. The total invoice amounts Probation will pay will not exceed \$9,900. The total invoice amounts DOE will pay shall not exceed \$29,700.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

DOE has approved the renewal of the RIF grant that your Board approved for the first time on February 19, 2002. Once again, the RIF grant is time delineated. The grant requires five book distributions prior to its expiration on September 30, 2003. Additional grant requirements are as follows:

1. A book selection committee of at least 3 people
2. Five book distributions before the end of the term
3. The minors will be able to select books without adult interference
4. The books will be free to the minors and there are no costs to the family
5. Only minors get the books, not teachers, probation officers or classroom collections
6. There will be motivational activities in conjunction with each book distribution
7. Minors who are absent will be given the opportunity to select a book at another time without adult interference
8. The federal allotment will be spent within the specified time or have a balance of less than \$25.00
9. Reports, invoices, etc. will be submitted on time - no later than 30 days after each distribution or invoice receipt
10. Failure to adhere to the guidelines can result in the withdrawal of the grant.

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IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Current services provided by the Probation Department through the residential treatment facilities' libraries and Operation Read are enhanced through the RIF grant. These services are aimed at improving the reading skills of the minors in our care. Having their own book allows the minors to read at times when there previously were no reading materials available.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Shumsky', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

RICHARD SHUMSKY
Chief Probation Officer

RS:yy

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c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel